

could come up with an alternative plan so that we perhaps had a choice. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Time. Thank you. Senator Warner, followed by Senator McFarland and Senator Lamb.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the advancement of LR 239. I've never been much interested in structural change. I don't particularly recall that I've ever supported one. And, usually it was my position that structure was relatively immaterial, if you had the right people then any structure works, or if you have the wrong people no structure will work. And it never really concerned me, but those arguments have gone on consistently. What I could not ignore and could not continue to ignore, from my personal position, is that the issue keeps coming up. Senator Withem has indicated very properly that no one seems to talk about what we have now, and where it has failed or where it has weakness that could be strengthened by this proposal. I cannot forget the comments that I've heard for the last several years, central administration had too much authority, campuses ought to have more autonomy for their internal operations. I heard it almost...I certainly heard it regularly, if not weekly. Here we come with a proposal that gives that autonomy to individual campuses and their governance, and then all of a sudden that is not proper. Yet that was what many people were asking for time after time in the past, or at least critical of the current system in the past. The Coordinating Commission keeps coming up as the basis which we ought to use, the current Coordinating Commission. And the simple facts are, as has been explained again time and time, and many of those who outside this body make this statement know that constitutionally you cannot provide that authority to the Coordinating Commission, in fact the...every document I can recall reading, by people who have been members of the Coordinating Commission, pointed out the need that exists to give authority to whatever body is to coordinate, is the authority that's being given to the board of regents in this proposal. The thing that was different to me with this study, compared to all the others we had, is that it separated, at least in my mind, the very important distinction of governance and coordination. What coordination of postsecondary education needs are three things. There is a variety of other things, but there are three things that repeatedly come up, and that deals with the budget submission, it deals with program approval, and it deals with long-range